(d) whether any time schedule has been fixed for noting down the meter reading by the DESU:

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the meter reading has not been done in the stipulated period in most of the colonies in Delhi during the current year and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) According to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU), no such complaint has been received by them.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a) above.

(c) Continuous efforts are being made by DESU to improve its consumer services which include strengthening of the distribution districts, installation of its own computer system with terminals in all district offices to replace manual billing operation etc.

(d) to (f) According to DESU, a monthly meter reading chart is prepared in every distribution district of DESU. Electricity connections having load of 5 KW and above are read every month and the meter reading of the connections having load below 5 KW is done once in two months. Normally meter reading are taken as per schedule. However, in some cases meter readings may not have been taken in the stipulated period due to administrative difficulties, premises being found locked, etc.

Price decontrolled drugs

2354. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 75 per cent of drugs being marketed in the country have been price decontrolled;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the past prices of price decontrolled medicines went up by 100 per cent to 300 per cent and in some cases even upto 700 per cent;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was no shortage of drugs which have been price decontrolled; and

(d) if so, what are the names of prices decontrolled drugs which were found in short supply during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Prices of some decontrolled medicines have gone up in the past.

(c) and (d) In general there was no shortage of price decontrolled drugs.

Supreme Court directions on price fixation of drugs

2355. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 126 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court gave certain directions to Government in their judgements dated the 10th April, 1987 and 1st May, 1987 while dismissing the petitions of the drug companies against price fixation of drugs by this Ministry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken in the fight of each direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court while dismissing the writ petitions filed by various companies in their judgements dated 10-4-1987 and 1-5.1987 directed the Government to dispose of the review applications filed by the various drug companies against the prices fixed by the Government for concerned bulk drugs/formulations by giving a hearing to the